**Dashes and Parentheses**

1. Which one of the following statements is **not** correct?

a) Use dashes to emphasize a point.

b) Use dashes to draw attention to a part of your sentence.

c) Use dashes to set off sentence parts and to add suspense.

d) Use dashes only with independent clauses.

2. Which one of the following statements is **not** correct?

a) Use parentheses to set off information that is not necessary for understanding the sentence.

b) Use parentheses to set off information that is necessary for understanding the sentence.

c) Use parentheses to set off dates of a person's life span.

d) Use parentheses to number items in a sentence.

3. Which of the following sentences uses dashes **incorrectly**?

a) Yes—I will marry you!

b) I have a crush—on that boy—in the band.

c) Simone swam the length of the pool twice—without even taking a breath.

d) Uncle Harold–dressed in a pink rabbit costume—caused quite a commotion at the wedding.

4. Which one of the following sentences uses parentheses **incorrectly**?

a) There are many California State Universities (CSUs) throughout the state.

b) Lewis Carroll (1832-1898) wrote the poem "Jabberwocky."

c) From the back room came a strange smell (dead fish!).

d) Follow these steps for a happy life: (1) take care of your health, (2) treat others with respect, and (3) forgive and forget past wrongs.

5. Which one of the following sentences uses parentheses **incorrectly**?

a) To register for classes, you must (1) complete this form, (2) take placement exams, and (3) meet with an academic advisor.

b) Leah studies Shakespeare (and has read his plays since she was 12), and is scheduled to defend her graduate thesis on his play *King Lear*.

c) Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964) first published her novel *Wise Blood* in 1949.

d) Mahea's boyfriend is serving the country (in the Navy).

6. Which one of the following sentences uses dashes **incorrectly**?

a) Statistics and chemistry—these are the two classes I'm most dreading.

b) The thing that students complain about most—reading—is also the area in which they are least proficient.

c) There are two things about myself of which I am proud—my hair and my abdominal muscles.

d) The kids—wearing their swimsuits—jumped into the fishpond.

7. Which one of the following sentences uses parentheses **incorrectly**?

a) Wallace Stevens (1879-1955) is known for his poem "The Emperor of Ice-Cream."

b) To apply for graduation, you must (1) complete this form, (2) return it to the office, and (3) pay the application fee.

c) I found out that Lupe has been living (in New Zealand).

d) Tracie loves rock concerts (and has since childhood), and she wears band T-shirts every day.

8. This sentence illustrates the correct use of parentheses to highlight numbers or letters used in listing items.

a)

The airplane flight to Colorado was quick (only about ninety minutes) and uneventful.

b) The call to the police included an address (107 West St.).

c) The labor negotiators realized they could (1) concede on all issues immediately, (2) stonewall until the public demanded a settlement, or (3) hammer out a compromise.

d) Although the Crusades failed in their announced objective, (Jerusalem still remained in Muslim hands afterward) the expeditions changed the West dramatically.

9. This sentence illustrates the **incorrect** use of punctuation before a parenthesis in the middle of a sentence.

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10. This sentence illustrates the correct use of dashes to add illustrations, examples, or summaries to the ends of sentences.

a) Dvorak's *New World Symphony* reflects musical themes that the composer heard in the United States—including Native American melodies and black spirituals.

b) Candice sputtered, "The opera lasted–I can hardly believe it–-five hours!"

c) The giants of nineteenth–century Italian opera–-Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Verdi–worked for demanding and sensitive audiences.

d) Charles Ives, William Grant Still, Aaron Copland, George Gershwin–these composers sought to create an American musical idiom.